

Troops on Guard at School; Negroes Ready to Return

By **BENJAMIN FINE**

Special to The New York Times.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Sept. 24—Troops from the Army's crack 101st Airborne Division, carrying carbines and billy clubs, took posts around Central High School tonight. They were here to see that court-ordered integration is carried out.

With police sirens wailing and headlights flashing, Army trucks loaded with soldiers roared into position. The soldiers represented about a quarter of the contingent of 1,000 crack troops of the division that was ordered to Little Rock by President Eisenhower to prevent mob riots and violence.

The first group of 500 airborne soldiers came to the city this afternoon from Fort Campbell, Ky., and a second group of 500 arrived by plane this evening. The bulk of the two groups bivouacked for the night in areas away from the school.

General Issues Order

Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker, commander of the Arkansas Military District, issued a formal order to the people of Little Rock not to collect in crowds and to let Central High School be integrated peaceably.

With the arrival of Federal troops, including some Negro soldiers who were not expected to be on duty at the school, Negro students were ready to try again to enter the high school.

A mob of 1,000 persons yesterday forced the city and school authorities to withdraw nine Negro students who had attended integrated classes for 3 hours and 13 minutes. The students did not try to enter the school today.

Mrs. L. C. Bates, president

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TROOPS ON GUARD AT HIGH SCHOOL

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of the Arkansas branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said that "if Federal troops are there, to protect the children, the Negro children will go to school tomorrow."

Late last night officials considered keeping the Negro students out of school tomorrow but bringing them in on Thursday.

Under this plan, the National Guardsmen would be alerted as to the problems involved in integration and a "pep talk" would be given to the high school students at assembly tomorrow, possibly by the school principal, Jeff Matthews.

It was felt in some quarters that if the students were informed of what is involved in integration and were urged to be law-abiding there might be less possibility of conflict in the school.

It was quite certain, however, that the Negro students would be in school on Thursday if not tomorrow.

The soldiers of the 101st began arriving at the Air Force base, used by the Strategic Air Command, twenty miles outside the city, at 3:15 P. M. Central standard time (5:15 P. M. New York time). Within an hour, fifteen C-119 "Flying Boxcars" had landed, each loaded with its full quota of troops.

At 6:40 P. M. twenty-six vehicles, including Army trucks, half-tracks and jeeps, filled with troops dressed in battle fatigues, drove up to Central High School.

Soldiers Take Up Posts

The men, with rifles slung over their shoulders, and entrenching tools in their belts, jumped from their trucks and were immediately formed in dress formation on the school campus. They then marched off behind the high school.

The men will not bivouac on the school grounds as had been suggested at first. They will be stationed either at Camp Robinson, seven miles away, or at the Little Rock University Armory in the city.

Only a handful of persons saw the arrival of the troops. On a corner opposite the school, several dozen men and women, stood quietly, etched against the glare of the headlights. On the opposite corner, where yesterday hundreds of segregationists surged angrily, a mother stood patiently with two small children. It was not bedtime yet.

Twenty local policemen under Gene Smith, assistant chief, waited for the Federal troops.

"Where are they?" someone asked.

"Are the troops really coming?" a gray-haired woman asked, almost incredulously.

She got her answer quickly.

"Here they come, here they come," someone cried.

Several blocks away a police siren shrieked, and the roar of the Army trucks could be heard. Suddenly the first of the Army trucks came into sight.

"They're here," someone shouted. "This is the Army all right," another answered.

Control Transferred

Mr. Smith greeted Col. William A. Kuhn, in charge of the 27th Battle Group of the 101st Airborne Division, as he turned over the responsibility of guarding the school to the Federal Government.

By 6:55 P. M. the men had formed their lines and marched forward. It had taken fifteen minutes to arrive, get into position, and take charge.

The Airborne Division had landed and everything was under control. A somewhat larger group of persons had by now gathered, attracted by the events of the evening.

"You won't get many people to fool around with those guys," a worried-looking man said.

"Yes," his companion answered, "but it's a hell of a way to run a school."

During the afternoon, General Walker had conferred with Virgil T. Blossom, Superintendent of Schools, and Mayor Woodrow Wilson Mann. It is understood that the plans to meet any mob violence had been considered.

"The correct way to prevent mob action," one of the general's aides said, "is to prevent the formation of a mob."

"We don't expect any trouble," said General Walker.

From the Arkansas Military District Headquarters which is an Army installation that serves Reserve units in the area, General Walker issued his proclamation, which declared in part:

"Pursuant to the authority vested in me . . . I hereby order all persons who are obstructing the enforcement of the orders of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas with respect to enrollment and attendance at the public schools of Little Rock, Ark., particularly Central High School, to cease and desist from such obstruction forthwith and to disperse and retire peaceably to their abodes. I have ordered the troops under my command to take all steps necessary to enforce compliance with this order."

Guard Command Shifts

General Walker has also taken over command of Arkansas' 10,000 troops in the National Guard, which was Federalized and called up for duty under order of the President. Until last Friday units of the National Guard had been posted in front of Central High School under orders of Gov. Orval E. Faubus to prevent violence, under which orders the guardsmen barred Negroes from entering the high school. The guardsmen were withdrawn Friday to comply with a Federal court injunction.

Maj. Gen. Sherman T. Clinger, state adjutant general normally in command of the Arkansas National Guard, has been relieved of his official duties with the militia. General Clinger was in command of the troops when

they took up duty at Central High School and kept it off limits to Negroes.

Residents of Little Rock showed shock, incredulity, anger—and often relief—when they saw the first of the Regular Army contingent rumble toward town in weapons carriers and six-by-six trucks behind a police escort. Conforming to the military niceties, an officer of the unit telephoned City Hall from the Air Force field and asked Mayor Mann for permission to enter the city and for a police escort.

The Mayor, who has accused Governor Faubus of helping to foment the racial strife here, immediately granted permission.

There was a general feeling among top state officials that there was little more they could do now except go along with the proclamation issued by the President.

Lieut. Gov. Nathan Gordon, who served as Acting Governor until the return today of Governor Faubus from the Southern Governors Conference at Sea Island, Ga., said: "I can't conceive

of anything I can do if the President has taken that action."

The Regular Army troops arrived here at a time when the city was relatively quiet compared with the mob outbreaks of yesterday. The hard-pressed police force of Little Rock, supplemented by fifty state troopers, had already initiated a get-tough policy this morning and had begun cracking down on ringleaders and those who were still inciting the disturbance.

A crowd of about 300 demonstrators was still muttering and milling outside the school when it opened this morning. Eleven persons were arrested outside the school and the spirits of the white supremacists visibly dampened. At least forty-five arrests have been made yesterday and today, both whites and Negroes, most of them on charges of disturbing the peace.

Motorcycle police and squad cars patrolled the city during the day, stopping and searching cars and frisking persons to remove any weapons they might be carrying.

Governor Faubus, who has been attending the Conference of Southern Governors at Sea Island, Ga., returned today to

take personal charge of rapid-fire developments. He had said, in Georgia, that the President could not federalize the troops without his permission.

As he stepped from his National Guard plane, reporters asked: "How do you feel, Governor?"

"I feel like [General of the Army Douglas A.] MacArthur," he replied. "I've been relieved."

General MacArthur was relieved of his Korea post by President Harry S. Truman.

The Governor seemed tense and tired. He had lost the confident manner that he had when he left here for Sea Island Saturday afternoon. The driving rain, which almost canceled the trip, did not dampen the Governor's spirits when he said good-bye to reporters and friends at the airport then.

But today, despite the hot sunshine, and the bright touch of autumn in the air, he appeared disturbed.

"What will you do now?" he was asked.

"I'll have to find out what has happened," he answered. "I have to find out a lot of things."

The Governor reacted quickly

when the question of Federal troops arose.

"Do you think the President's action in calling out the troops is wrong?" he was asked. "I certainly think so," he said. "I believe he showed bad judgment."

Later, at the Executive Mansion, Governor Faubus met with newsmen again.

"Do you think your presence here will have a calming effect?" a reporter asked.

"I don't know," he replied. "I have to talk to a lot of people first."

Among the reporters was James Hicks, the Negro managing editor of The New York Amsterdam News. Yesterday Mr. Hicks had been severely beaten by the mob when he appeared near the school grounds to report the story for his paper. He received much different treatment today.

Greets Negro Reporter

Governor Faubus walked over to Mr. Hicks and shook hands with him. "Who are you?" the Governor asked.

Mr. Hicks identified himself. He did not, however, refer to the beating he had received.

"How do you do, sir," Gov-

ernor Faubus said, shaking hand with Mr. Hicks.

The Governor did not shake hands with anyone else.

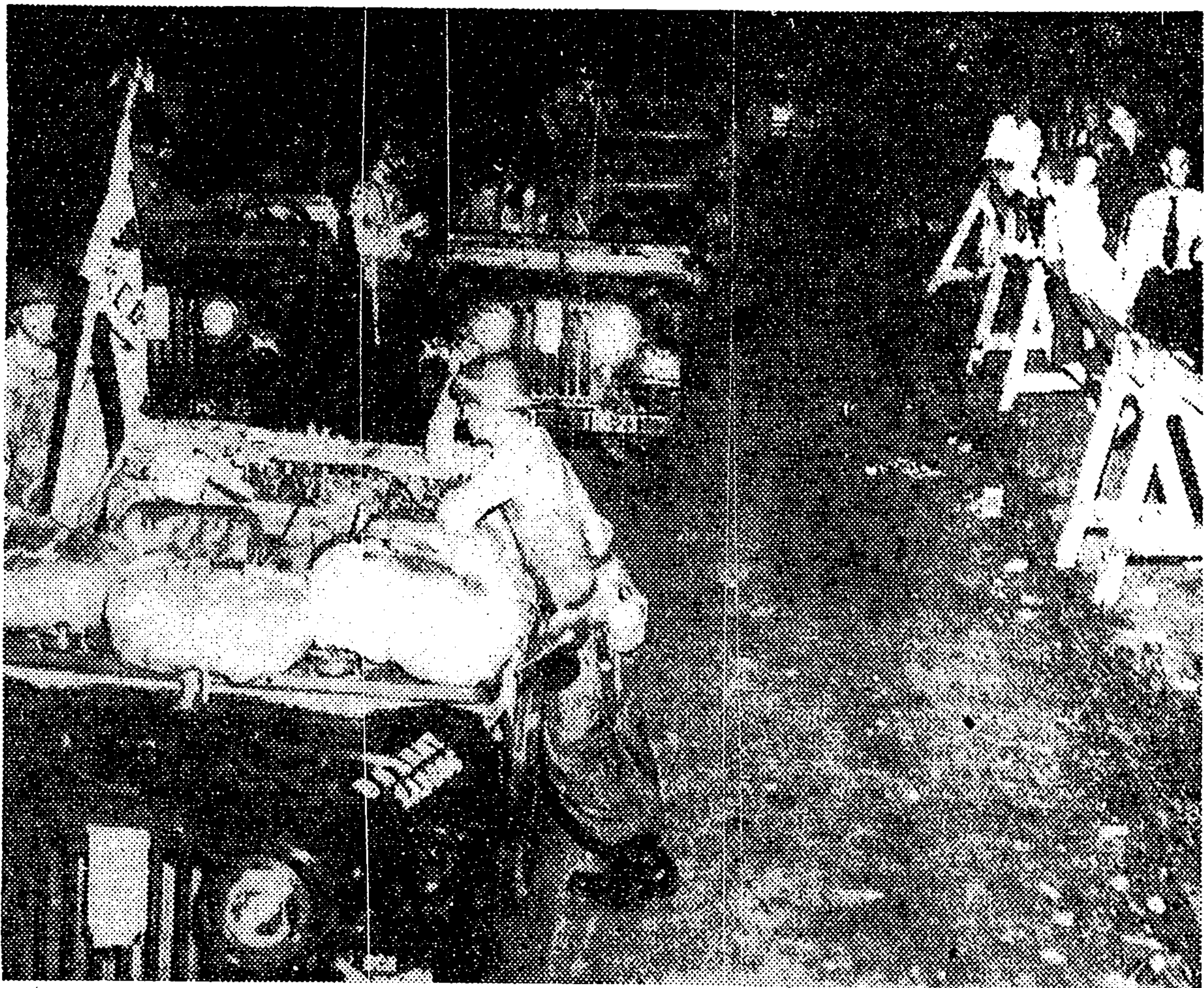
The Governor has consistently opposed Federalizing the guards. However, now that this is an accomplished fact, it is not believed that he will raise any legal questions.

Just how many of the 10,000 guards asked to report for duty by the Army will be used could not be determined. It all depends, informed sources said, on what happens here this week.

Donald B. MacGuineas, chief of the General Litigation Section of the Civil Division, Attorney General's Office, had been scheduled to leave here today for Washington. He arrived last week to help Judge Davies in the case against Governor Faubus. He is remaining.

"I came out here to represent the Justice Department and assist the United States Attorney, Osro Cobb," he said. "I will remain until I get my orders to return."

These orders, Mr. MacGuineas said, would have to come from Herbert Brownell Jr., the Attorney General.



Associated Press Wirephoto

SOLDIERS IN LITTLE ROCK: Residents of Arkansas capital looking on last night as men of the 101st Airborne Division took positions outside the Central High School.

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